

Borough of



Chelmsford.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON

Health, Sanitary Conditions

ETC.,

FOR THE YEAR 1919,

BY

WILLIAM J. COX, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health,

School Medical Officer,

Medical Officer of Maternity and

Child Welfare Centre.

INCLUDING THE

REPORTS of the VETERINARY INSPECTOR
and SANITARY INSPECTOR.



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Public Health Department,

Duke Street,

Chelmsford, 1920.

To His Worship the Mayor, and the Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Chelmsford.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my First Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health of the Borough, relating to Health, Sanitary Conditions, &c.

Dr. Newton, your Medical Officer of Health, retired on October 13th of this year, after holding the appointment for 23 years.

I feel at a slight disadvantage in writing this Report, from the fact of having been in the Borough only during the last quarter of the year.

I have, however, been able to write the Report with the assistance of certain statistics handed on to me by my predecessor.

I have endeavoured to give as full a Report as circumstances would permit, and have included the usual Tables I. to IV. as in pre-war times.

I have much pleasure in acknowledging the valuable assistance I have received in carrying out my duties from various other Officials of the Borough during my first three months of office.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM J. COX.

Summary of Vital Statistics, Etc., 1919.

POPULATION OF BOROUGH—

Estimates 1920, 21,705 (including military population) ;
20,836 (civil population).

These are the estimates supplied by the Registrar-General.

BIRTHS—

Total registered, 334, including 31 illegitimates. Number of births notified to M.O.H., 324. Percentage of illegitimate births, 9·2. Birth rate per 1,000 population, 15·38.

NOTIFICATIONS—

Total received, 162, including

Diphtheria	...	44	Tuberculosis (other forms)	1	
Scarlet Fever	...	14	Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	2	
Measles and German			Puerperal Fever	...	2
Measles	...	9	Malaria	...	21
Enteric Fever	...	2	Dysentery	...	4
Erysipelas	...	5	Pneumonia	...	21
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	26		Influenzal Pneumonia	...	11

DEATHS—

Total uncorrected, 251 : rate, 11·9 per 1,000 living.

Total corrected, 218 : rate, 10·4 per 1,000 living.

Under 1 year of age, 19 : rate 56·8 per 1,000 births registered.

Total Zymotic Death Rate per 1,000 living, 0·13.

Chief causes of death, persons of all ages :—

Disease.	No. of Deaths.	Rate.
Diphtheria	2	·09 per 1,000 living
Typhoid, Measles, Whooping Cough and Scarlet Fever	0	·00
Infant Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	1	·04
Pulmonary Tuberculosis...	12	·56
Tuberculosis (other forms)	4	·19
Cancer	31	1·48
Organic Heart Disease	23	1·10
Influenza	11	·56

Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

POPULATION. The census population of 1911 was 18,008. The figures for estimated population are supplied by the Registrar-General.

The higher figure of 21,705 is intended to cover the entire residential population including military, and is used for calculating the birth rate.

The lower figure of 20,836 does not include the military population and is intended for use in calculating death rates.

NATURAL CONDITIONS, ETC. The Borough of Chelmsford is situated partly in the valley of the Chelmer, whilst other parts are built on slightly higher ground rising from this valley.

The lowest parts of the town are placed at an altitude of from 80 to 90 feet above sea level, and are liable to flooding from the river.

Some of these areas are undesirable sites for housing owing to dampness from this cause. Other residential parts of the town rise to a height of from 100 to 150 feet above sea level, the highest districts being at Springfield and in the direction of Galleywood.

The district around Chelmsford is undulating; there is no rock at the surface, the chalk beds being covered with glacial and post-glacial deposits varying in thickness from about 200 to 400 feet.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS, INDUSTRIES, ETC. Originally a county market town pure and simple, Chelmsford is now a growing industrial centre. The large factories of Messrs. Hoffmann, Crompton's and the Marconi Company are the chief sources of employment.

It cannot be said that this new development of industrialism is particularly prejudicial to the health of the workers as the work is generally carried on in premises which are well lighted and ventilated.

Smoke nuisances have not developed to any great extent with the growth of these industries.

Vital Statistics.

(See Summary on page 2).

For purposes of comparison the following table is also given :—

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, and ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY during the Year 1919.

(Provisional figures. Populations estimated to the middle of 1919 have been used for the purposes of this Table.)

	BIRTH-RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULA- TION.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 CIVILIAN POPULATION.								RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.	
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 Years).	Total Deaths under One Year.
England and Wales	18·5	13·8	0·01	0·00	0·10	0·03	0·07	0·13	0·47	9·59	89
96 Great Towns, including London (Census Populations exceeding 50,000)	19·0	13·8	0·01	0·00	0·13	0·04	0·07	0·14	0·45	12·24	93
148 Smaller Towns (Census Populations 20,000—50,000)	18·3	12·6	0·01	0·00	0·10	0·03	0·08	0·12	0·39	8·67	90
London	18·3	13·4	0·01	0·00	0·08	0·03	0·05	0·18	0·47	16·22	85
Chelmsford	15·3	10·4	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·09	0·49	2·9	56·8

*Non-civilians are included in these figures for England and Wales but not other areas.

BIRTH RATE. The birth rate of Chelmsford—15·3 per 1,000—is a very low one, lower than that of the country as a whole, which is only 18·5 compared with 17·7 in 1918, 17·8 in 1917 and 21·6 in 1916.

This low birth rate is not surprising considering present economic and social conditions.

Fortunately the death rate for Chelmsford is a low one—only 10·4 per 1,000—and thus a margin is left for increase of population, in spite of a very low birth rate.

The number of births registered during the year was 334 whilst the number of deaths assignable to the Borough was 218, allowing a “natural increase” of population of 116.

The *illegitimate birth rate* of Chelmsford is a comparatively high one; 31 illegitimate births occurred, being nearly 10 per cent. of the total number.

DEATH RATE. As stated in the preceding paragraph the death rate of Chelmsford is a low one, being only 10·4 per 1,000, as compared with 13·8 per 1,000 the average for England and Wales. It is also lower than the other figures given in the table above.

Happily there are no deaths to report from Enteric Fever, Small-Pox, Measles, Scarlet Fever or Whooping Cough and only two from Diphtheria.

The *zymotic death rate* is only ·13 per 1,000 living.

The death rate from *Pulmonary Tuberculosis* is ·56 per 1,000 which is also a very low death rate.

INFANT MORTALITY. During the year 1919, 19 deaths of infants under the age of twelve months occurred (See table IV. at the end of the Report). This gives the low death rate of 56·8 per 1,000 compared with 89, the average for England and Wales, and 93 for the 96 Great Towns. This low death rate is very satisfactory. Only one death occurred from Infant Diarrhœa.

Poor Law Relief, Hospitals, Etc.

The amount of money applied to Outdoor Relief in the Borough of Chelmsford for the year 1919, was £634 8s. 0d., as follows :—

			£	s.	d.
Quarter ending March 31st, 1919	...	...	108	9	9
„ June 30th, „	...	...	136	19	3
„ Sept. 30th, „	...	..	189	18	9
„ Dec. 31st, „	...	...	199	0	3
Total			£634	8	0

The Chelmsford and Essex Hospital and Dispensary serves as a General Hospital for the district. There are 43 beds, but an extension is contemplated at an early date.

During the year 1919, 756 in-patients were treated at this Institution, of which 372 were residents of the Borough of Chelmsford. The number of out-patients and casualties was 1,218, and the number of operations 576.

At the present time there is no Maternity Ward in this Institution, but this is badly needed, both for the Borough of Chelmsford and for the district around, including chiefly the Rural District of Chelmsford and the Rural District and Borough of Maldon. An arrangement could be made between these districts and the Hospital for sending in lying-in patients, under which half the cost of the arrangement could be recovered from the Ministry of Health. This would be helpful to the Hospital from a financial point of view.

There is not the least doubt that if a Maternity Ward were provided there would be no lack of applicants for admission.

Several cases have already come to my knowledge where expectant mothers in Chelmsford could find no housing accommodation of any description.

If the needs of the Borough alone are to be considered probably four beds will be sufficient, but if also the district around at least eight beds would be needed.

The Workhouse Infirmary is an Institution of 100 beds and serves for both Urban and Rural Districts : it has a Maternity Ward of 4 beds.

The following table gives the number of inmates in the Chelmsford Workhouse and Infirmary during the year ending September 30th, 1919:—

	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
From Chelmsford Rural District ...	88	91	29	208
From Borough of Chelmsford ...	63	67	22	152
Totals ...	151	158	51	360

Total days in the Institution—54,418.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER SUPPLY. I am indebted to the Borough Surveyor, Mr. Percival Harrison, A.M.I.C.E., for figures here quoted.

The water supply of the Borough, excluding Springfield which is supplied by the Rural District is as follows:—

Admirals Park, Spring ...	80,000 gallons per day		
Borehole ...	120,000	"	"
	200 000	"	"
Burgess Well, Spring ...	55,000	"	"
Mildmay Yard, Borehole ...	115,000	"	"
Galleywood , , ...	90,000	"	"
	460,000	"	"

During the year 1919, the total consumption was 153,000,000 gallons, of which it was estimated that 8 per cent. was for trade purposes, the remainder for domestic use. It is obvious from the above figures that the present water supply is not greatly in excess of the demand, although sufficient for present needs. As the town grows, however, the matter of a new water supply will become more urgent and will necessitate the provision of further supplies. At the present time the question of chlorination of river water is engaging much attention. The addition of a mere trace of chlorine to river water is sufficient to destroy all harmful bacteria. Thus, at Reading one part of chlorine to two million parts of water is employed, this amount being quite inappreciable to taste. After filtration under pressure the water is free from even this small quantity of chlorine, and is an excellent drinking water which is absolutely safe.

With regard to the purity of the present supply I am able to report that the usual samples have been taken by Dr. Thresh, throughout the year.

The following is the report by Drs. Thresh and Beale, on 6 samples collected on November 5th., 1919.

All these samples are of good quality, and the chemical analyses show that they remain constant in character

Arranged in order of purity, the Admirals Park water is the best, and the water from the Springfield Hydrant is less pure bacteriologically than the others.

1. Admirals Park mixed water.
2. Mildmay Road deep well water.
3. Burgess Well water.
4. Galleywood deep well water.
5. Broomfield Hydrant. Deep well water.
6. Springfield Hydrant. Spring water.

All the samples, however, can be certified as pure and wholesome, and suitable for the purposes of a public supply.

JOHN C. THRESH.

RIVERS AND STREAMS. My predecessor, Dr. Newton, has repeatedly drawn attention to the fact of pollution of the River Chelmer.

If this river or its tributaries are to be made use of (after purification) for drinking water, the question of their pollution will assume a greater importance than before.

Apart from the question of using this water as a supply for drinking, the subject of preventing contamination of local streams is a very important one which is worthy of serious consideration.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. The Council has under consideration at the present time a scheme for laying new sewers, the old sewers no longer being adequate for present needs.

The sewage of the Borough, together with that from certain areas of the Rural District, is treated at the Sewage Farm at Brook End, Springfield.

During the year 1919, no new foul water sewers have been laid, but the Borough Surveyor informs me that a new 9-inch surface water sewer has been laid in Broomfield Road from the Borough boundary to Swiss Avenue, to replace an old 6-inch surface water sewer, and to relieve the foul water sewers of a quantity of road water.

The area of the farm is 108 acres, but recently Storms Farm has been purchased by the Corporation for future extensions. Storms Farm has an area of over 40 acres, and adjoins the present Sewage Farm.

The system employed is that of broad irrigation. It is a comparatively cheap method, producing a reasonably satisfactory effluent, which is discharged into the river Chelmer.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. The Closet accommodation of the Borough is, generally speaking, satisfactory. Water carriage of excreta is the chief method of disposal in use. Formerly, many of the w.c.'s in the Borough were not provided with flushing apparatus, but were flushed with buckets of water carried by hand. During the last few years in some six or seven hundred cases, cisterns have been put in where necessary.

It is now rare to meet with an example of the hand flushed w.c.

Most of the w.c.'s in use in the district are a good type of the pedestal variety. There are a few short hoppers here and there, but these are fairly satisfactory as a rule. The insanitary long hopper become scarcer each year, but it is not yet extinct.

In addition there are about 50 pail closets in use. These are chiefly in the Galleywood area of the Borough, and as they are in a district where rural conditions obtain, and where they are properly used, no exception can be taken to them under these circumstances.

The privvy middēn is now a thing of the past in this Borough. Towards the end of the year there were four in use, but at the time of writing my report these have been abolished.

SCAVENGING. There is no refuse destructor in the Borough of Chelmsford. During the year, 4,487 loads of refuse were removed to the tip. This method of refuse disposal cannot be considered satisfactory. A Borough the size of Chelmsford needs a refuse destructor if refuse is to be disposed of in a cleanly and hygienic manner.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT. The report of the Sanitary Inspector should be consulted for full particulars of this work. In addition to performing the usual Sanitary and Housing Inspections, he has also visited the Elementary Schools regularly, and investigated their sanitary condition and water supply. In addition, the private schools of the town have been visited and recommendations made for sanitary improvements where necessary.

Food Supply and Inspection.

WORK OF THE VETERINARY INSPECTOR. The work of veterinary inspection has been carried out by Mr. W. S. Mulvey, F.R.C.V.S. The Borough is fortunate in having the services of a veterinary specialist so eminent in his profession as Mr. Mulvey.

His work is of great value to the public health of the town. In addition to his weekly survey of the cattle market, the Veterinary Inspector visits the cowsheds of the district regularly, and when necessary takes samples of milk which he examines for tubercle bacilli. He also inspects meat at the Government slaughter house.

Mr. Mulvey points out in his Report the desirability of having a Municipal Abbatoir and also the unsatisfactory state of affairs existing owing to the suspension of the Tuberculosis Order of 1914.

Further particulars as to milk supply and the administration of the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order of 1899 will be found in his Report.

MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDER, 1918. Under this Act Local Authorities may provide milk for expectant and nursing mothers and for children under the age of five years. Twenty families were relieved under this Order during the year 1919.

INSPECTION OF UNSOUND FOOD BY SANITARY INSPECTOR. Full particulars of this work will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT. The taking of samples under this Act is not done by the Borough, but is in the hands of the County Council.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES. At the beginning of the year 1919, certain infectious diseases were made notifiable for the first time, viz.—Pneumonia, Malaria, Dysentery and Trench Fever.

At the end of the same year came the Public Health (Measles and German Measles) Rescission Order, whereby these diseases were no longer notifiable after December 31st., 1919.

During the year, 162 notifications of Infectious Disease were received in this Borough. The number of notifications of each disease is set out in the Summary on page 2.

It will be seen from this list that no serious outbreak of Infectious Disease occurred.

Diphtheria was responsible for the largest number of notifications—44, whilst those of Scarlet Fever numbered 14. Two deaths occurred from Diphtheria, but none from any other infection except Pneumonia, which was responsible for 11 deaths.

With regard to the notification of Pneumonia, Malaria, Dysentery and Trench Fever, it is doubtful whether any useful purpose has been served by their notification, especially with reference to the last three. All the cases

of Malaria and Dysentery in this Borough appear to have been contracted abroad. If, however, localized outbreaks of indigenous cases had occurred, the knowledge gained from notification of these diseases would undoubtedly have proved useful.

METHODS OF CONTROL. The usual methods of combating Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria have been employed viz. — isolation of cases affected with the disease, quarantine of "contacts," disinfection of premises and the provision of disinfectants free of charge. In the case of Diphtheria, swabbing of throats when necessary, and the provision of anti-toxin free of charge have also been undertaken.

It is interesting to note that all the cases of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever have been removed to hospital, thereby preventing much further infection and case incidence of these diseases.

I am unable to give much information as to the prevalence of the non-notifiable infectious diseases, except with regard to the latter end of the year, at which time I took up office as Medical Officer of Health. I am able to state however, that towards the end of the year Chicken Pox was very prevalent in the schools.

Fortunately none of these infections produced fatal results.

Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases.

The treatment of these diseases is under the control of the County Authority. One afternoon session and one evening session respectively are held at the County Dispensary by the County Tuberculosis Officer. A clinic for the treatment of cases of Venereal Diseases has been established at the Chelmsford Hospital, London Road. It is held between the hours of 11 a.m. and 12 noon on Fridays. Beds are also available at the Hospital for in-patients suffering from these diseases.

Small-pox.

Fortunately no case of Small-pox occurred in the Borough during the last year. Hospital accommodation is, however, available, and is always kept in readiness at the Galleywood Small-pox Hospital. This is a joint Hospital which serves for the Borough of Chelmsford and also for the Chelmsford Rural District.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Maternity and Child Welfare work is a comparatively new development of Public Health.

The following Memorandum of the Local Government Board, dated July, 1914, gives a concise account of what should be aimed at :—

MEMORANDUM.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

A complete scheme would comprise the following elements, each of which will, in this connection, be organised in its direct bearing on infantile health.

1. Arrangements for the local supervision of Midwives.
2. Arrangements for—

ANTE-NATAL :—

- (1) An Ante-natal Clinic for expectant mothers.
 - (2) The home visiting of expectant mothers.
 - (3) A Maternity Hospital or beds at a hospital, in which complicated cases of pregnancy can receive treatment.
3. Arrangements for—

NATAL :—

- (1) Such assistance as may be needed to ensure the mother having skilled and prompt attendance during confinement at home.
 - (2) The confinement of sick women, including women having contracted pelvis or suffering from any other condition involving danger to the mother or infant, at a hospital.
4. Arrangements for—

POST-NATAL :—

- (1) The treatment in a hospital of complications arising after parturition, whether in the mother or in the infant.
- (2) The provision of systematic advice and treatment for infants at a Baby Clinic or Infant Dispensary.
- (3) The continuance of these Clinics and Dispensaries, so as to be available for children up to the age when they are entered on a school register, *i.e.*, the register of a Public Elementary School, Nursery School, Crèche, Day Nursery, School for Mothers or other school.
- (4) The systematic home visitation of infants and of children not on a school register as above defined.

Local Government Board,
Whitehall, S.W.,
July, 1914.

Since this Memorandum was published in 1914, other institutions and developments, in respect of which the Ministry of Health give a grant of 50 per cent. of cost, have been added to the list.

Hospital treatment for children up to 5 years of age.

Lying-in-homes (for *normal* cases).

Home helps.

Provision of milk for expectant and nursing mothers, etc.

Homes for deserted and illegitimate children.

Convalescent homes.

Dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers, etc.

Observation cots at Infant Welfare Centres.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Act of 1918 widened the powers of Local Authorities, so as to include all the above arrangements.

It is not to be expected that a Borough the size of Chelmsford will be able to evolve a scheme so elaborate and complete in detail as that described above.

Nevertheless, much can be done, and it will be convenient to discuss details of the scheme under the heads 1 to 4 as in the Memorandum of 1914.

- (1) *Arrangements for the local supervision of Midwives.* This part of the scheme is supervised by the County Authority.
- (2) *Ante-Natal.* In Chelmsford where the ground is well covered by the work of medical practitioners and midwives, it is not necessary to attempt much ante-natal work. Any expectant mothers requiring advice about their condition or any of its complications may, if they choose, attend the Infant Welfare Centre. They will there be advised and also recommended to place themselves under the care of a medical practitioner if necessary, and also to engage a midwife as early as possible.
- (3) *Natal.* Here again, this branch of the work should be undertaken by practitioners and midwives. In some cases of pregnancy, however, treatment in a Maternity Home is necessary. This may be on account of complications which render the case abnormal, or because the home environment is unsuitable, either because the house is too small or for other reasons.

In Chelmsford there appears to be no good reason for founding a Maternity Home as an institution apart from local institutions already existing. When the new extension of the Chelmsford Hospital is built, a Maternity Ward should be included in the scheme, if this is not already contemplated. Probably four beds would suffice for the needs of this Borough.

(4) *Post-Natal.* In this section of the scheme the chief features which are carried out locally are :—

- (a) Systematic home visiting by the Health Visitor.
- (b) Attendance of mothers and children at the Infant Welfare Centre.

It is proposed to appoint a full-time Health Visitor instead of utilising the services of one nurse in the dual capacity of School Nurse and Health Visitor.

Under the part-time system it is impossible to get the work of health visiting done, especially now that the Health Visitor is responsible for visits to children up to the age of five years.

In addition the Health Visitor is required to attend at the Infant Welfare centre and to investigate the economic circumstances of applicants for milk under the Milk (Mother and Children) Order, 1919. The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre will, however, be the chief feature of the Scheme in Chelmsford.

Previously, a voluntary Centre was held in the County Skating Rink, but this was closed a few months before it was possible to open a new Municipal Centre.

At the time of writing this Report a Centre is in existence in the Friends' Meeting House. It is held on Tuesdays from 3 to 4 p.m., and is already well attended.

Much assistance is rendered by voluntary workers who undertake the weighing of babies, and also various duties of a social character. The presence of the voluntary workers encourages the mothers in their attendance at the Centre. After the babies have been weighed they are taken to the Medical Officer's consulting room, where advice is given on feeding and minor ailments. Every effort is made to encourage the practice of breast feeding, this being regarded as the most important feature in the advice given on the subject of infant feeding.

PUERPERAL FEVER AND OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM. It is gratifying to note that only two cases of Puerperal Fever were notified during the year and two cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum

HEALTH VISITING. During the year 320 first visits have been paid by the Health Visitor to mothers and children, and 684 re-visits making a total number of 1,004 visits. These visits have been made by a part-time Health Visitor, and have been confined to mothers with infants in the first year of life. The Ministry of Health now require visits to be paid during the first

five years of life in addition to visiting expectant mothers. They lay down as a standard that one Health Visitor is required for every 400 births, where the district is a compact one.

The Borough of Chelmsford covers a fairly extensive and straggling area and has about 350 births per annum. It is now no longer possible for a part-time nurse to cope with this work, in addition to undertaking the duties of School Nurse. She is unable to do justice to the work of either appointment.

Fortunately the Council has decided to appoint two whole-time nurses, one to devote herself entirely to the duties of Health Visitor, and the other to be a full-time School Nurse.

Sanitary Administration.

STAFF. There is one full-time Sanitary Inspector, but in addition it is a part of the Health Visitor's duties to report any sanitary defects found in the homes which she visits.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES. The Isolation Hospital is situated in Baddow Road, and serves both the Borough and the Rural District of Chelmsford, being controlled by a Joint Committee of members representing the two Authorities.

It is an Institution of about 50 beds, and has accommodation for cases of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever and Enteric Fever. Accommodation is also reserved for cases of Influenzal Pneumonia. It is customary to remove all cases of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever, also Enteric Fever, whenever possible. A separate hospital is provided at Galleywood for cases of Small-pox. Dr. J. Martin, of Chelmsford, is Medical Officer of the two hospitals.

The accommodation thus provided for cases of infectious disease appears to be adequate for the needs of the district.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS. A County Laboratory has recently been established, at which certain pathological and bacteriological materials are examined free of charge. Any practitioner in the County may send swabs or other material to the Laboratory. The results are notified to him, and also to the Medical Officer of Health of the district in which the case resides. Formerly the Borough of Chelmsford had an arrangement with the Clinical Research Association for the examination of specimens, but this has now been cancelled.

Local Acts, Adoptive Acts and Bye-laws in force in the Borough of Chelmsford.

LOCAL ACTS :

1915. 15th July—Chelmsford Corporation Gas Act, 1915.

LIST OF ACTS adopted by Council.

1889. 27th Nov. —Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889.
1890. 31st Dec.—Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890.
1890. 31st Dec.—Public Health Acts (Amendment Act), 1890.
Parts II., III., and V.
1893. 22nd Feb.—The Private Street Works Act, 1892.
1900. 28th Feb.—Baths and Wash Houses Acts, 1846 to 1899.
1901. 30th Oct.—The Museums and Gymnasiums Act, 1891.
1902. 26th Mar.—The Public Libraries Acts, 1892 and 1893.
1903. 25th Feb.—Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890.
Part III.
1909. 7th June—Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907.
Part II., Part III., Part IV., Sections 52 to 67.
Part V., Part VI., and Sections 93 and 95 in
Part X.

BYE LAWS AND REGULATIONS:

Made by the LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH previous to
the incorporation of the Borough.

1852. 27th Feb.—Bye-laws with respect to Common Lodging Houses.
1859. 22nd Jan.—Bye-laws for the regulation of Slaughter-Houses.
1880. 6th Feb.—Bye-laws with respect to the Market.
1886. 29th Sept.—Bye-laws with respect to the management of the Cemetery.
1886. 24th Nov.—Regulations for management of, and charges for the use of the Cemetery.

Made by the TOWN COUNCIL.

1891. 30th Sept.—Bye-laws : Fines on Resignation.
1894. 28th Feb.—Bye-laws : New Streets and Buildings.
1895. 7th May—Bye-laws : Recreation Ground
1899. 29th Mar.—Bye-laws : Good Rule and Government.
1899. 30th Aug.—Regulations : Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.
1900. 29th Aug.—Bye-laws : New Buildings.
1905. 27th Dec.—Rules and Regulations : Public Library and
Museum.
1908. 28th Oct.—Rules for the Regulation of the Fire Brigade.
1909. 30th June—Bye-laws : Good Rule and Government (Writing
on foot pavements).

- 1909. 29th Dec.—Water Supply Regulations.
- 1910. 26th Jan.—Bye-laws : Nuisances and other matters.
- 1910. 23rd Feb.—Bye-laws : Market (emaciated cattle)
- 1910. 30th Mar.—Bye-laws : Hackney Carriages.
- 1910. 31st Aug.—Bye-laws : Good Rule and Government (Noisy Hawking).
- 1910. 30th Nov.—Standing Orders of the Council.
- 1911. 27th Sept.—Water Supply : Seale of Charges.
- 1911. 25th Oct.—Rules with respect to Allotments.
- 1912. 31st Jan.—Standing Orders of the Council.
- 1912. 29th May—Bye-laws : New Buildings (constructed with steel or iron framework).
- 1913. 26th Mar.—Bye-laws : New Buildings.
- 1913. 30th Apl.—Bye-laws : Means of escape in ease of fire from certain Factories and Workshops.
- 1914. 25th Feb.—Regulations : Connections to Sewers.
- 1914. 29th July—Bye-laws : Public Library.
- 1917. 27th June—Water Supply : Seale of Charges.
- 1917. 31st Oct. —Standing Orders of the Council.

Housing.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS. The number of dwelling houses in the Borough is approximately 5,500. Of these, about 4,300 may be considered working-class houses, including in this category houses of rent varying from 3s. 0d. to 10s. 0d. per week.

The population is estimated by the Registrar-General at nearly 21,000, but this is probably an under-estimate.

Building operations have been at a complete standstill during the last three years of the war.

OVERCROWDING is fairly prevalent owing in some cases to the fact that two families occupy one house, and in others due to the presence of lodgers who are employed at the various factories in the Borough. There are 300 cases in the Borough where two families are known to occupy one house. Many persons are prevented from lodging in the town owing to the fact that all available accommodation is occupied.

Measures are urgently required to deal with overcrowding and also to provide accommodation for those who wish to live near their work in the Borough, but are at present compelled to live further away.

FITNESS OF HOUSES. The general standard of housing in the district is considerably lowered by the existence of a large number of old houses which do not conform to modern requirements. Thus there are at present

in the Borough about 120 houses which are not, and cannot be, made fit for human habitation in the strict sense. These houses provide accommodation for about 500 persons. They are kept in a moderate state of repair by continual attention on the part of the Sanitary Inspector, who calls the attention of owners to any urgent repairs which become necessary from time to time.

It has to be recognised that it would be worse than useless to demolish these unsatisfactory houses in a time of housing shortage like that of the present time. In accordance with a suggestion by the Ministry of Health in their Manual on Unfit Houses, a lower standard has been accepted than would otherwise be desirable, and tenants are still permitted to occupy these houses because it is impossible for them to obtain other housing accommodation.

The reasons for unfitness of the houses above mentioned are chiefly that they are old cottages which are in a state of general dilapidation. Added to this, there are the facts that some of these cottages are situated in a low lying area which is liable to flooding, thus rendering them permanently damp, whilst others are situated in an enclosed area without proper air space around.

In addition to the 120 houses which call for demolition as early as possible, there is a second class of houses which are seriously defective but which have been, or need to be improved. These houses do not require immediate demolition. They number about 300. If kept in a state of good repair they may be considered habitable, and serve a useful purpose at this time of shortage. Much attention has been paid to this type of house by the Sanitary Inspector during the last few years. In many cases, but for his unflagging zeal, these houses would now require demolition and would be numbered with the 120 first mentioned.

Their life as dwellings has been prolonged by various improvements, as *e.g.*, insertion of damp courses, provision of separate water supply and sink for each house, concreting of yards, removal of long hopper basins and other general repairs.

At the present time the majority of these cottages cannot be considered unfit for human habitation, but judged by modern standards of hygiene, they are not entirely satisfactory.

UNHEALTHY AREAS. There are various small areas in Chelmsford which require demolition, in addition to isolated blocks of property here and there. There are no large areas which could be dealt with in a big scheme. The development of Chelmsford as a business centre will, no doubt, result ultimately in the demolition of some old houses, also the widening of Moulsham Street, involving the pulling down of one side of the street, would remove some houses which are not in a good state of repair.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1890. Full particulars of the action taken by the Sanitary Inspector under this Act will be found in his report.

No Closing Orders were made under the Act, but one house which became empty, was closed voluntarily by the owner on representations being made to him that the house was incapable of being made into a satisfactory dwelling.

HOUSING NEEDS OF THE DISTRICT. At the present time Chelmsford cannot provide housing accommodation for all those who wish to live in the Borough, and in addition the needs of the next few years require consideration. The following is a rough estimate of the number of houses which will be required during the next three years. It is based on the information given in October, 1919, to the Housing Commissioner in response to a Form of Survey of Housing Needs, which was sent out at that time.

(1)	Houses required to meet present unsatisfied demand	...	1,000
(2)	To replace dwellings unfit for habitation	...	120
(3)	To meet new industrial developments	...	300
			<hr/>
			1,420
			<hr/>

It will be necessary to add to these figures a number of houses to replace those which, though not at present regarded as unfit for human habitation, yet, nevertheless fall below a modern standard of hygienic requirements.

Some of the 300 mentioned in this connection will doubtless be useful for a much longer period than three years, especially in view of the present great shortage which is likely to continue. If, however, half this number be added to the list as needing replacement during the next three years, we get a total of nearly 1,600 houses required.

MUNICIPAL HOUSING. Chelmsford is fortunate in possessing a Housing Scheme of 144 houses, completed just previous to the outbreak of the War, and situated in Rainsford Lane. These are useful, compact working-class dwellings, letting at rents varying from 4/3 to 6/9 per week.

In addition, the Boarded Barns Farm Estate was purchased in 1919, for housing purposes. It contains over 118 acres and is intended for the erection of about 1,000 Workmen's Dwellings. The average number of houses to the acre will be eight.

During 1919 plans for the erection of 24 houses on the new Estate were submitted to, and approved by the Housing Commissioner and the Ministry of Health.

TABLE I.

BOROUGH OF CHELMSFORD.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1919 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.			TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.			NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	Number.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents registered in the District.	At all ages.	Under 1 year of age.			Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.
			Number.	Rate.							Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1910	17,800	...	338	18.98	202	12.47	34	...	17	50.29	168	9.43	...	...
1911	18,008	...	370	20.94	257	14.27	41	12	38	102.7	216	12.00	...	...
1912	18,307	...	360	19.67	223	12.13	46	9	25	69.4	177	9.66	...	...
1913	18,500	...	397	21.45	237	12.80	31	10	23	57.94	206	11.13	...	...
1914	18,800	...	410	21.71	284	15.32	73	11	36	87.8	222	13.7	...	...
1915	19,054	...	416	21.84	340	17.89	75	11	36	86.54	276	14.53	...	...
1916	No records	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1917	No records	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1918	19,404	...	368	16.9	239	12.4	...	...	...	70.5	...	...	...	...
1919	20,836	...	334	15.3	251	11.9	49	16	19	56.8	218	10.4	...	...
Area of District in acres (land and inland water), 3,015.										Total population at all ages, 18,008			At Census, 1911.	
										Number of Inhabited Houses, 3,974				

TABLE II.
BOROUGH OF CHELMSFORD.
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR, 1919.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.							Total Cases notified in each Locality ; (e.g.) Parish or Ward of the District.			TOTAL CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years.						1. North Ward.	2. South Ward.	3. Springfield.	
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65					65 and over
Small-Pox	44	9	23	5	5	1	1	13	15	16	44
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	5	4	5	3	2	1	1	1	3	1	14
Erysipelas	14	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	6	5	...
Scarlet Fever	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	3	1	...	...
Enteric Fever	21	1	5	8	3	4	1	3	16	2	...
Pneumonia	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	12	3	...
Malaria	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	14	4	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	26	...	2	7	10	6	1	8	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Measles	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...
Dysentery	11	...	1	2	6	2	...	4	3	4	...
Influenza-Pneumonia	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	162	5	36	25	33	15	4	46	72	34	58

Isolation Hospitals:—Baldow Road (Chelmsford) and Galleywood.

TABLE III.

DEATHS REGISTERED DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 1919. CLASSIFIED BY AGE AND CAUSE.

CAUSES OF DEATH.				NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF RESIDENTS WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT.									TOTAL DEATHS WHETHER OF "RESIDENT" OR "NON- RESIDENTS" IN INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.
				All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and up- wards.	
All Causes	{ Certified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	{ Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	1
Influenza	...	...	...	11	...	...	...	1	7	...	...	1	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	3	4	3	2	1
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases...	...	...	...	4	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	1	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	31	...	...	...	...	1	2	10	18	8
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis	...	...	...	3	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease	...	...	...	23	...	...	...	3	...	...	10	10	10
Bronchitis	...	...	...	20	1	...	2	...	...	...	4	13	7
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	4	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Other diseases of Respiratory organs (Pleurisy)	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Alcoholism	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	...	...	...	12	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suicide	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...
Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	72	10	...	...	3	1	8	50	...	47
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	8
TOTALS	...	...	...	218	25	2	5	9	7	30	88	45	83

TABLE IV.
BOROUGH OF CHELMSFORD—INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1919.
Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes { { Certified ... { Uncertified ...	2	4	2	..	9 ..	1 ..	3 ..	2 ..	2 ..	19 ..
Measles ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculous Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Abdominal Tuberculous ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis not Tuberculosis ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Convulsions .. ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Laryngitis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Bronchitis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoea .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteritis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gastritis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rickets .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Injury at Birth .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Congenital Malformation ..	1	2	..	..	3	..	1	..	1	5
Premature Birth... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	1	2	2	..	5	1	2	..	1	8
Other causes	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2
TOTALS	3	4	2	1	10	1	3	2	3	19

Nett Births in { Legitimate, 303.
the Year 1919. { Illegitimate, 31.

Nett Deaths in { Legitimate, 18.
the Year 1919. { Illegitimate, 1.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1919 FOR THE BOROUGH OF CHELMSFORD.

On the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices.	Prosecutions
Factories ... (Including Factory Laundries) ...	19	—	—
Workshops ... (Including Workshop Laundries) ...	169	6	—
Workplaces -- ...	—	—	—
Total.. ...	188	6	—

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—</i>				
Want of cleanliness ...	10	10	—	Nil
Want of ventilation ..	—	—	—	Nil
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	Nil
Want of drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	Nil
Other nuisances ...	19	19	—	Nil
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient ..	8	8	—	Nil
{ unsuitable or defective ..	2	2	—	Nil
{ not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	Nil
<i>Offences under the Factory & Workshop Act.</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bake-house ...	—	—	—	Nil
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses ...	—	—	—	Nil
Other Offences ..	—	—	—	Nil
Total... ..	39	39	—	Nil

4. -REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.					Number.
(1)					(2)
Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bake- houses, may be enu- merated here.	Bakehouses	...	...	...	20
	Dressmaking and Millinery...	...	...	...	29
	Builders, Plumbers, &c.	...	...	...	13
	Cycles, Motor Repairs, &c.	...	...	...	11
	Other	...	...	...	35
Total number of Workshops on Register					108

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.					Number
(1)					(2)
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories:—					
Failure to affix Abstract of Factory and Workshop Act, 1901 (s. 133)					Nil
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Work- shop Act (s. 5, 1901)					4
Notified by H.M. Inspector					4
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector ...					4
Others					Nil
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—					
Certificates granted during the year					Nil
In use at the end of the year					1

Report of the Veterinary Inspector, 1919.

CHELMSFORD,

February, 1919.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF CHELMSFORD.

GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in reporting that nothing of unusual nature has arisen in connection with my duties as Veterinary Inspector to the Borough during the year.

COWS AND COWSHEDS. All cows and cowsheds are inspected and examined at least once in each two months, and samples of milk have been taken from cows and examined whenever considered advisable.

The number of cowsheds in the Borough is	...	9
The number of cows in the Borough is approximately	300	
The number of cows excluded from cowsheds in the Borough during the year was	... ..	4
The number of samples of milk tested during the year was	... ..	54
The number of cows tested with the tuberculin test during the year was	... ..	3
The number of visits paid to cowsheds during the year was	... ..	65

The cowshed at Thrift Farm has been opened by H. Hasler.

These premises have been thoroughly done up, the old cesspool removed and a new one made.

A sample of milk taken at Mr. Evans' shop, Baddow Road, was found to be affected with tubercle bacilli. By permission of the Medical Officer of Health, Urban District Council, I was able to visit the herd from which the milk came, viz., Mr. Evans, Galleywood, and found a cow with a diseased udder: this has been destroyed.

It will be observed that the number of cows in the Borough is practically the same as the year ending 31st December, 1914.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES. With the exception of the slaughterhouse of Mr. F. Underwood, now under Government control, the slaughterhouses in the Borough are all in the same hands as last year.

The following carcasses, etc., have been condemned at the Government slaughterhouse :—

Jan. 13th.	Carcases of 3 Sheep.
„ 23rd.	Carcase of a Cow.
March 13th.	„ of a Stirk.
April 7th.	„ of a Sheep.
„ 10th.	„ of a Stirk.
„ 20th.	„ of a Heifer.
„ 25th.	„ of a Cow.
May 8th.	„ of a Cow.
„ 10th.	„ of a Cow.
„ 19th.	„ of a Cow.
„ „	„ of a Bullock.
Oct. 23rd.	„ of two Livers.
Nov. 13th.	„ „ „
„ 28th.	„ of a Sheep.
Dec. 8th.	„ of a Stirk.
„ 13th.	„ of two Livers.
„ 17th.	„ of a Cow.

In addition to the above, numerous Heads and Tongues affected with actinomycosis have been destroyed.

April 11th. Found four Cows at Everett's, Springfield Road.
These were very emaciated, two were killed, and the other two turned out to grass.

Other foodstuffs condemned.

1919.

Jan. 9th	...	Carcase of a Cow at L. Creasy's Shop
„ 17th	...	Two Hindquarters and two Forequarters of Frozen Beef at Underwood's Shop
April 29th	...	Carcase of a Bullock at Finning's Slaughterhouse
Aug. 30th	...	18½ lbs. Beef at Reynold's Shop
Sept. 13th	...	44 lbs. Bacon at W. R. Catt
„ 29th	...	59 lbs. „ „
Oct. 9th	...	Side of Beef, Fletcher's, Ltd.
„ 21st	...	6 lbs. Corned Beef, Lipton's
„ 27th	...	9¼ lbs. Ham, International Stores
„ 31st	...	1 cwt. 1qr. 3lbs. Bacon, R. L. Mortimer
Nov. 10th	...	2 cwt. 6lbs. „ „
Dec. 12th	...	13¼ lbs. Bacon, Lipton's
23rd	...	6½ lbs. Ham, International Stores

The Government Slaughterhouse has been visited every day since it was taken over; all the others at very frequent intervals. They are, on the whole, well kept, but of course require constant supervision.

MARKET. The Corporation Market has been regularly attended on each market and fair day and all animals deposited or exposed for sale have been examined.

The following is a list of all animals removed from the market during the last year :—

Sent out of Market

1919.		
Feb. 14th	Red Cow, emaciated and suspected to be tuberculous	
„ 28th	Seven Store Pigs, very emaciated and suspected to be suffering from Swine Fever—Reported to Police.	
April 11th	Red and White Cow, very emaciated and suspected Tuberculosis	
„ 25th	Brindled Cow, emaciated	„
May 23rd	Red and White Cow, emaciated	„
July 4th	Black and White Heifer, emaciated	„
„ 25th	Two Jersey Bulls, very emaciated	
„ 25th	Two White Cows	„
„ 25th	One Roan Bull	„
„ 25th	Three Red and White Cows, very emaciated	
„ 25th	One Black and White Cow	„
„ 25th	One „ „ „	„
Aug. 22nd	One Dun Cow, Suppurative Mammitis	
Sept. 5th	One Black Heifer, emaciated	
„ 19th	One Red Cow, emaciated and suspected to be tuberculous	
„ 19th	One Roan Cow, „	„
Oct. 17th	One Red and White Cow	„
„ 17th	One Blue and White Cow	„
Nov. 7th	One Red and White Cow	„

It is much to be regretted that the Tuberculosis Order of 1914 was suspended for the duration of the war, as without it one cannot deal with these animals after they are sent out of the Borough. I am glad to hear that it is likely to be put into force at an early date.

I would again suggest that a Public Abbatoir is an absolute necessity in order that meat may be thoroughly examined and passed as fit for human food.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES. The following outbreaks of contagious disease have occurred :—

Palmer	...	Moulsham.	} Parasitic Mange.
Sutton	...	„	
Smith	...	Upper Bridge Road.	
Currie	...	Moulsham	... Anthrax.

Suspected Rabies—

Everett	..	Upper Roman Road.
Goodwin	...	Rosebery Road.
Franklin	...	Broomfield.

I am glad to say none of these were found to be rabies.

CORPORATION HORSES. With the exception of temporary disablement, the condition of the horses has been satisfactory.

Three very old horses from the Corporation stables were sold.

Four new ones bought.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W S. MULVEY, T.D., F.R.C.V.S.

Report of Inspector of Nuisances.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

DUKE STREET, CHELMSFORD,

February 1920.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
BOROUGH OF CHELMSFORD.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting the following report of work done during the year ended December 31st, 1919, being my Eighth Annual Report.

Drains, Water Closets, Urinals, etc.

Defective water closets re-built	...	...	...	...	2
Additional „ „ provided	...	...	...	...	3
Flushing apparatus and supply of water provided to water closets previously flushed by hand	...	...	...	...	1
Water closets provided with proper waste-preventing cistern in place of large tank with spindle valves	...	...	...	...	5
Flushing apparatus and fittings of water closets repaired, or new flushing cistern provided	...	...	...	...	125
Proper pedestal closets provided in place of waste water closets	..				10
„ „ basins provided to water closets previously fitted with filthy and defective long hopper basins	...	...	...	...	95
Defective water closets repaired, cleansed, etc.	...	...	...	...	43
Water closet soil pipes removed from interior of houses, or properly ventilated	...	...	...	...	5
Defective midden privies converted to pail closets	...				2
Defective pail closets abolished	...	...	...	...	2
Drains properly ventilated, &c., or repaired	...	...	...	...	72
New branch drains laid	...	...	...	...	6
Glazed gully traps fixed	...	...	...	...	34
Sink and lavatory wastes properly disconnected, new waste pipes provided, etc.	...	...	...	...	31
Inspection chambers provided to drains	...	...	...	...	2
Obstructed drains, water closets, etc. unstopped	...	...	...	...	52
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	17

Refuse Receptacles.

Foul ashpits abolished	...	...	...	...	2
Galvanized iron sanitary dustbins provided in place of foul ashpits, or where previous bins were dilapidated	...	...	...	...	176

Dwelling Houses.

Houses or parts thereof cleansed, Sec. 46 Public Health Act, 1875	...	12
Damp conditions prevented, damp courses inserted, walls rendered with impervious material, soil removed from walls, etc.	...	31
Overcrowding abated	...	3
Floors re-laid	...	54
Floors and stairs repaired	...	33
Roofs and ceilings repaired	...	53
Efficient light provided	...	6
Walls, chimneys, plastering, doors and windows repaired...	...	78
Troughing provided, repaired or cleared from obstruction...	...	99
Sanitary sinks and water supplies provided in houses	...	5
Sanitary sinks provided in place of stone sinks	...	3
Downpipes repaired or properly disconnected, etc.	...	10
Efficient ventilation provided to houses, windows made to open, etc....	...	20
Yard paving laid or re-laid	...	99
Houses closed as unfit for habitation	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	38

Workshops (including Bakehouses).

Workshops or parts thereof cleansed	...	10
Storage tanks removed and water taken directly from main	...	2
Insufficient or defective water closets	...	10
Accumulation of refuse removed	...	2
Drains improved	...	3
Yards paved	...	4
Sanitary bins provided...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	6

Water Supply.

Supplies of drinking water provided direct from mains instead of from storage tanks	...	86
Premises provided with an efficient supply of water where previous supply was insufficient	...	11

Miscellaneous.

Dairies, cowsheds or milkshops cleansed or repaired	...	6
Nuisances from keeping animals abated	...	9
Manure pits repaired, etc.	...	2
Accumulations of manure and other refuse removed	...	53
Premises, etc. cleansed...	...	5
Smoke nuisances abated	...	5
Slaughterhouses cleansed or repaired, offal removed, etc.	...	10
Other matters	...	3

Housing and Town Planning Acts.

Number of dwelling houses inspected	...	...	...	195
„ considered unfit	...	...	...	60
Number reported for closure	...	...	...	3
Number of Closing Orders made	...	...	...	Nil.
Number remedied without Closing Orders	...	...	...	17
Number made fit after Closing Orders	...	..	...	Nil.

This table shows that no Closing Order was made during the year, but one house was closed under the Public Health Act, 1875, the owner consenting to do this on representation being made to him as to its unsatisfactory condition, and as the house was already void, no displacement of occupier was necessary.

Common Lodging Houses.

These are generally well conducted.

Slaughterhouses.

There are eight slaughterhouses and one Knacker's Yard in the Borough ; some of the premises are very old, but they are generally well kept, and suggestions for improvement usually well received.

Bakehouses.

There is still one underground bakehouse.

The conditions throughout the year have been fairly satisfactory, and limewashing and other matters have from time to time received attention.

Market.

The Veterinary Inspector and myself attend the Market on Market days. During the year the following animals were sent out of the Market :—

1919.

14th Feb.	Red Cow emaciated and suspected to be tuberculous.			
23th „	Seven Store Pigs. Suspected swine fever; afterwards confirmed.			
11th Apr.	Red and White Cow. Emaciated and suspected to be tuberculous.			
25th „	Brindled Cow	„	„	„
23rd May.	Red and White Cow	„	„	„
4th July.	Black and White Heifer	„	„	„
25th „	Two Jersey Bulls	„	„	„
„ „	One Roan Bull	„	„	„
„ „	Two White Cows	„	„	„
„ „	Three Red and White Cows	„	„	„

25th July	Two Black and White Cows.	Emaciated and suspected to be tuberculous.
22nd Aug.	One Dun Cow.	Suppurative mammitis.
5th Sept.	Black Heifer.	Emaciated.
19th „	Red Cow.	Emaciated and suspected to be tuberculous.
„ „	Roan Cow	„ „ „
17th Oct.	Red and White Cow	„ „ „
„ „	Blue and White Cow	„ „ „
7th Nov.	Red and White Cow	„ „ „

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

There are eight cowkeepers on the Register, the cowshed at Thrift Farm having been thoroughly overhauled and renovated and Mr. Hasler having been registered as the occupier.

The milk purveyors have been very much reduced in number by the present situation in the milk trade and only 11 are now carrying on business in milk retailing in the Borough; all the premises are fairly well kept, any suggestion as to improvement receiving attention.

Food Inspection.

At the Government slaughterhouse the following surrenders of diseased or unsound food were made:—

1919.

13th. Jan.	Carcases of three Sheep.
23rd „	Carcase of a Cow.
13th March.	„ of a Stirk.
10th April.	„ „
20th „	„ of a Heifer.
25th „	„ of a Cow.
8th May	„ „
10th „	„ „
19th „	„ „
28th Nov.	„ of a Sheep.
8th Dec.	„ of a Stirk.
17th „	„ of a Cow.

All these were seen by the Veterinary Inspector.

Other goods surrendered by various tradesmen in the Borough were as follows:—

1919.

9th Jan.	Carcase of a Cow.
17th „	Two Hindquarters and two forequarters of Frozen Beef.
29th Apr.	Carcase of a Bullock.

15th May.	Ten boxes of Dates.
22nd „	Five „
29th „	Six „
3rd July.	13 „
31st „	Four „
30th Aug.	18½ lbs. of Beef.
13th Oct.	44 lbs. of Bacon.
23rd „	Three boxes of Kippers.
29th „	59 lbs. of Bacon.
9th Sept.	Side of Beef.
21st „	Six lbs. Corned Beef.
27th „	9½ lbs. of Ham.
31st „	1 cwt. 1 qr. 3 lbs. Bacon.
10th Nov.	2 cwt. 6 lbs. of Bacon.
12th Dec.	13½ lbs. of Bacon.
23rd „	6½ lbs. of Ham.

Offensive Trades.

There are only two of these in the Borough, and they may be considered well conducted.

Elementary Schools.

During the year 10 new water closets have been installed at Springfield Mixed School, and the closets at St. John's and Victoria Girls' and Infants' Schools have also received attention.

Disinfection, etc.

Patients removed to the Isolation Hospital were: Diphtheria 42, Scarlet Fever 14. The number of houses disinfected, etc., was as follows:—Scarlet Fever 14, Diphtheria 40, Consumption 15, Cancer 4, Typhoid Fever 1, other illness 4. The bedding and clothing, where necessary, were removed to the Joint Isolation Hospital Board's disinfecting station for disinfection.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WALTER BROWN, Cert. Roy. San. Inst.,

Inspector of Nuisances.

